

**BEFORE THE
SOUTH CAROLINA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF
SOUTH CAROLINA**

DOCKET NO. 2007-402-C

In the Matter of)	
)	
Application of HTC)	
Communications, LLC)	
For Designation as an Eligible)	ETC ANNUAL REPORT
Telecommunications Carrier Pursuant)	
to Section 241(e)(2) of the)	
Communications Act of 1934)	

Pursuant to proposed regulation 103.690.1 of the South Carolina Public Service Commission (the "Commission"), HTC Communications, LLC ("HTCC") hereby submits this Eligible Telecommunications Carrier ("ETC") annual report.

I. BACKGROUND

The Commission, by Order 2008-273, dated April 17, 2008, designated HTCC as an ETC pursuant to 47 U.S.C. § 214(e)(2). By letter dated May 1, 2008, the Commission informed the Federal Communications Commission ("FCC") and the Universal Service Administration Company ("USAC") of this designation. The Commission's certification to the FCC and USAC was effective April 17, 2008, through the end of the 2008 calendar year. HTCC submits this annual report for the purpose of extending its ETC designation and the Commission's certification of its entitlement to receive federal high-cost support for the 2009 calendar year.

II. ANNUAL REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

Pursuant to the Commission's proposed regulation 103.690.1, a common carrier designed under 47 U.S.C. § 214(e)(2) as an ETC after January 1, 2007 shall provide the following information:

A. A Progress Report On Its Two Year Network Improvement Plan

HTCC's designation as an ETC was not effective until April 17, 2008, and as of July 15, 2008, HTCC has not yet received any universal service support funds. Even so, HTCC has made progress towards the goals set forth in the two year network improvement plan that HTCC submitted in support of its application for designation as an ETC. Specifically, HTCC conducted some preliminary RF engineering studies to initiate the site acquisition phase for several future cell sites. Those studies have generated Search Area Request Forms (SARF) for eleven of the top fifteen priority sites identified in HTCC's network improvement plan. These SARFs were then used to initiate the second phase of HTCC's site building process – site acquisition.

As part of the site acquisition phase, HTCC conducted search area studies to locate suitable and available land for acquisition at four future cell sites, and has conducted search area studies to find available tower space on existing structures for two future cell sites. Three of the six sites that HTCC has begun devoting resources to (Allsbrook, Glenwood, and Twin City) were identified in HTCC's network improvement plan as its top three priorities for year one following designation. The other three sites (Air Base, Cedar Creek, and Bethel Church) were slotted for priority in years two and beyond in HTCC's network improvement plan. HTCC has determined, however, that conditions for these three sites made it feasible to begin work earlier than planned. At this time, HTCC has no plans to adjust the site schedule

in its network improvement plan, but is instead committing resources to sites as it becomes feasible to do so.

In addition, HTCC has no adjustments or updates to add to the maps included in its original network improvement plan, and nothing further to report on how its signal quality, coverage, and capacity have been improved, since those have yet to be realized. Likewise, HTCC does not have any unfulfilled network targets to report at this time, and it remains on schedule to meet the projected deadlines in its original site schedule.

B. Detailed Information On Any Outage

HTCC does not have any outages, as defined in 47 C.F.R. § 4.5, of at least thirty minutes in duration for its designated service area since April 17, 2008, the date its ETC designation became effective.

C. Number of Requests from Potential Customers That Were Unfulfilled

As HTCC was not designated as an ETC the past year (2007), it does not have any unfulfilled requests for service from potential customers to report during that time frame.

D. Number of Complaints or Trouble Reports Per 1000 Handsets

HTCC's designation became effective April 17, 2008. For the month of May 2008, HTCC received 2.4 network complaints or trouble reports per 1000 handsets. For the month of June 2008, HTCC received 4.3 network complaints or trouble reports per 1000 handsets.

E. Certification That It Is Complying With Applicable Service Quality Standards

HTCC certifies that it is in compliance with the CTIA Code and that it remains committed to the standards set forth in the CTIA Code for its entire network and operations.

F. Ability to Remain Functional in Emergency Situations

HTCC is committed to and remains able to function in emergency situations. HTCC's network has battery backup or permanent generators at all of its cell sites to ensure functionality without an external power source. HTCC can also deploy cell sites on wheels or "COWs" that can be driven to cell sites or locations affected by emergency conditions to assist with managing traffic spikes caused by such conditions. HTCC also utilizes AT&T's switches, which are equipped with emergency generators and have the capability of re-routing traffic in response to emergency conditions. Similarly, HTCC monitors its sites with sophisticated equipment capable of detecting disruptions caused by emergency situations that allow HTCC to respond quickly and accordingly.

G. Certification of Local Usage Offering

HTCC is working towards offering a local usage plan that is identical to that offered by the incumbent LECs in HTCC's designated ETC service area. HTCC has completed its investigation of all program requirements needed to develop this wireless local usage plan. HTCC has also mapped all of its wireless towers to meet the rate center boundaries for the two incumbent LECs, Horry Telephone Company, and Verizon South, Inc., in HTCC's designated service area. Further, all cell site identification codes have been reconciled to HTCC's billing records, and the initial requirements specification for systems development has been prepared and is being circulated internally for approval. As a result of the work that it has completed thus far, HTCC is committed to having its new local usage rate plans in place by September 15, 2008.

H. Certification Regarding Equal Access to Long Distance Carriers

HTCC certifies its acknowledgment that the FCC may require it to provide equal access to long distance carriers in the event that no other ETC is providing equal access within its service area.

I. Number of Lifeline and Link Up Customers

HTCC was not designated as an ETC as of December 31, 2007, and therefore, it did not have any Lifeline customers or customers receiving Link Up assistance as of that date. HTCC has taken steps, however, to establish both Lifeline and Link Up plans. HTCC has notified the existing landline Lifeline customers in its service area, by letter, that there is an equivalent wireless plan that is also available to them. The new wireless plans are also on schedule to be advertised along with the incumbent local exchange carrier's existing landline plans.

J. Copies of Responses to Lifeline Verification Surveys or Certification Filed with USAC

HTCC's ETC designation was not effective until April 17, 2008, therefore it did not file any Surveys or Certifications with the USAC on August 31, 2007.

III. CONCLUSION

HTCC respectfully requests that the Commission re-certify HTCC's designation as an ETC throughout its FCC licensed boundaries. As set forth above, HTCC satisfies all of the annual reporting requirements established by the FCC and this Commission as they pertain to ETC re-certification and designation. HTCC remains ready, willing, and able to meet the

responsibilities inherent in ETC designation. As a result, HTCC asks that its designation be re-certified throughout its entire FCC licensed service area

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